

MADERA COUNTY

SENIOR AGRICULTURAL AND STANDARDS INSPECTOR

DEFINITION

Under general direction, to lead, oversee, and participate in the enforcement of federal, state, and local laws and regulations; to perform the most complex inspection assignments; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the advanced, journey-level class in the Agricultural and Standards Inspector series. Positions at this level are expected to perform the most complex regulatory activities of the department, while providing instruction, training and assistance to subordinate staff. Positions at this level are distinguished from the Agricultural and Standards Inspector I/II/III levels by the complexity and difficulty of the work performed which requires specialized expertise and the ability to exercise a higher degree of independent judgement and initiative. Positions at this level are generally flexibly staffed with the Agricultural and Standards Inspector I/II/III levels and are normally filled from the Agricultural and Standards Inspector III level. When filled from the outside, the employee is required to have prior related experience that is equivalent to the Agricultural and Standards Inspector III.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

May exercise technical and functional supervision over subordinate staff.

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Leads, oversees, and participates in the enforcement of federal, state, and local laws and regulations; performs the most complex inspection assignments; trains and instructs staff on laws, regulations, ordinances, policies, inspection methods and safety procedures; plans, assigns, coordinates and reviews the work of subordinate staff with the Deputy or Assistant Commissioner; coordinates staffing needs with other Senior Agricultural and Standards Inspectors and reports program priorities to the Deputy and/or Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; conducts complex and difficult investigations, obtains evidence, prepares case files and acts as a witness or advocate in administrative civil penalty hearings; may assist in the developing, administering, and monitoring of the Department budgets; may serve as Hearing Officer; inspects fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey, eggs, or other agricultural commodities in markets, packing houses, and storage areas for compliance with regulations related to standards, grades, and spray residues; issues certificates of inspection; may order reconditioning or destruction of produce deemed to be below minimum standards; inspects plants and trees in nurseries and those being transported by common carrier for evidence of disease, pests, or noxious weed seeds; inspects transported agricultural commodities to ensure that they are free from injurious insects or plant disease; issues permits and may supervise the application of toxic materials to crops; inspects apiaries; examines fields, orchards, roadways, and cultivated areas to determine the location and extent of rodent, weed, bird, insect, predator, and plant disease infestations; assists with the eradication and control of plants, weeds, rodents, birds, and other pests; enforces laws related to preventing the introduction and spread of pests; may certify or specify treatment of agricultural products as a condition of movement or shipment; inspects seeds, seed shipments, and cleaning devices for compliance with standardization requirements; may operate trucks, spray rigs, and

other equipment; inspects pesticide equipment and storage; inspects, tests, and seals commercial weighing and measuring devices, petroleum product dispensing meters, and a variety of electrical meters; weighs, measures, and counts or weighs the contents of packaged commodities to verify the accuracy of labels; inspects and verifies weighmaster licenses and pertinent certificates; collects product samples for testing to ensure stated quantities; investigates complaints of improper measures, weights, and counts; gathers evidence and other information to support the prosecution of violators; prepares reports and records of inspections and tests conducted; gathers information for annual crop reports; audits records of pest control advisors, operators, growers, and dealers; examines fields, orchards, roadways, and cultivated areas to determine location and extent of endangered species; may have specialized job assignments such as the development of data bases, hardware maintenance, and computer software applications; may serve on interagency groups and committees.

OTHER JOB RELATED DUTIES

Performs related duties and responsibilities as assigned.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Pertinent State and Federal laws and regulations related to the inspection, standardization, and quarantine of agricultural products.
Pertinent State and Federal laws and regulations related to the inspection and standardization of weights and measures, net containers, and public weighmasters.
Law enforcement powers, procedures, and policies of the Office of Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures.
Proper inspection methods and procedures.
Basic statistical testing techniques.
Principles and practices of employee supervision and training.
Methods of treating and controlling plant pests and diseases.

Skill to:

Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment.
Operate a motor vehicle safely.

Ability to:

Learn principles and practices of budget development, preparation, and expenditure control.
Interpret, apply, and explain the policies, procedures, laws, codes, and regulations pertaining to assigned programs and functions.
Impartially investigate complaints of short weights, deception and fraud.
Gather and maintain information concerning County crops.

Ability to: (Continued)

Plan, organize, and review work of assigned staff.

Perform complex inspection assignments.

Maintain records and prepare clear and concise reports.

Effectively represent the County's agriculture and weights and measures inspection and enforcement programs to the public, the media, community organizations, related industry groups, and other governmental agencies.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish, maintain, and foster positive and harmonious working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Experience and Training Guidelines:

Any combination equivalent to experience and training that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities would be:

Experience:

Three (3) years of technical agricultural inspection and weights and measures enforcement work.

Training:

Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in biological or agricultural science or a related field.

License or Certificate:

Possession of valid state inspection licenses in all fields of agricultural and weights and measures inspection work.

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid California driver's license. Some positions may require a Class 'B' California driver's license.

Special Requirements:

Essential duties require the following physical skills and work environment:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, kneel, crouch, stoop, squat, crawl, twist, climb, and lift 50 lbs.; exposure to cold, heat, noise, outdoors, chemicals, explosive materials, mechanical hazards and electrical hazards; ability to travel to different sites and locations.

Effective Date: May, 2007